

Kitto is supportive of the DNC and O'Connor believes we can raise his level of participation. The meeting helps to reinforce Kitto's relationship with the DNC and by extension our relationship with the American Indians in Minnesota.

O'Connor and Kitto are meeting with Tom Collier to represent the concerns of several Minnesota tribes about a neighboring Wisconsin dog track that might be converted into a casino. Apparently several Wisconsin tribes, led by the St. Croix [sic], have submitted a bid on the track and are seeking to establish "land in trust" with the Department of Interior. According to O'Connor and Kitto, this would lead to direct competition to Minnesota gaming operations – Little Six and Treasure Island casinos – and bring economic hardship to Minnesota tribes.²¹⁷

Mercer scheduled time for O'Connor and Kitto to meet with Fowler on March 15, which happened to be O'Connor's 75th birthday. This meeting followed O'Connor and Kitto's meeting with Collier at Interior on the same date. Mercer informed his superior, DNC Finance Director Richard Sullivan, that the March 15 meeting was part of an effort to cultivate O'Connor as a contributor and fund-raiser. Mercer specifically noted that O'Connor had Indian clients whom O'Connor had identified as potential DNC financial contributors.

In advance of the March 15 meeting, Fowler's staff "briefer" met with Mercer, who told her that Minnesota Indian tribes contributed money to the DNC, while Wisconsin Indian tribes did not. The briefer's notes of the discussion suggest that either she or Mercer felt Fowler should be "non-committal re: casino."²¹⁸

No witness has recalled any details of the discussion during Fowler and Mercer's March 15 meeting with O'Connor and Kitto.²¹⁹ A week later, however, Fowler sent acknowledgment

²¹⁷Memorandum from David Mercer to Chairman Fowler, March 15, 1995.

²¹⁸Memorandum from David Mercer to Chairman Fowler, March 15, 1995 (annotated version).

²¹⁹O'Connor only recalls generally that, sometime prior to April 28, he introduced Kitto
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